

## Exile in the Wilderness: the Life of Chief Factor Archibald Mcdonald, 1790-1853

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## Book Notices

*The Commissioners of Indian Affairs, 1824-1977.* Edited by Robert M. Kvanicka and Herman J. Viola, foreword by Philleo Nash. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1979. 384 pp., index, \$19.75.)

Although there is presently no commissioner for Indian affairs (the office has been changed to assistant secretary of interior for Indian affairs and is currently vacant), this volume is timely. Forty-three men have served as commissioner of Indian affairs since 1824. Many of these men have had undistinguished careers, but each helped to determine the direction of the nation's policy toward Native Americans. Thirty-one contributors (professional historians, archivists, and government administrators) have presented excellent biographical sketches of the commissioners and the effort has resulted in an accessible work that can be read for pleasure and intellectual profit by a wide audience.

*The Badger State: A Documentary History of Wisconsin.* Edited by Barbara Paul and Justus Paul. (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1979. 567 pp., illus., maps, index, \$13.95 paper.)

The editors, both professors at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, have done an excellent job of pulling together primary sources and blending them with interpretive essays to provide a first-rate portrait of the events and trends from prehistoric times to the present in the Badger State. One only wishes such a recent and up-to-date documentary history of Iowa existed.

*Exile in the Wilderness: The Life of Chief Factor Archibald McDonald, 1790-1853.* By Jean Murray Cole. (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1980. 288 pp., illus., appendix, notes, bibliography, index, \$15.95.)

This is a model biography of a model commissioned officer in the fur trade. McDonald was a warmhearted husband and father determined to raise his family in the solitude of the Canadian forests. He was one of the first to recognize British Columbia's potential in the area of commercial farming, fishing, and lumbering. Yet he was also an avid naturalist and early advocate of conservation. The author draws extensively from McDonald's letters, reports, and diaries and lets him tell his own story. Anyone interested in the fur trade and particularly in the Hudson Bay Company and those who dream of a life of solitude in this modern, "merry-go-round" world, will find this book a pleasure to read.

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